

(b) and (c) Global warming, melting of ice sheets and corresponding sea level rise would adversely affect the low lying coastal areas. According to some initial studies the historic data of sea level reveals a high variability along the Indian coastline with an increase along the Gulf of Kutchh and West Bengal coastline and decrease along Karnataka coast. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Working Group I Summary for Policy makers released recently indicate sea level rise under various scenarios ranging from 0.18 to 0.59 m by the end of the 21st century. The rising sea level may lead to increase in soil salinity, besides loss of land area. Though this is a very slow process, yet it is going to erode some of the agricultural land in deltaic and coastal areas close to sea, river and creeks. Rise in sea level may also push back fresh water/ saline water interface in ground water condition and resulting in increase in the salinity in ground water. The population living near the coast will also be affected consequent to these changes.

(d) The studies carried out by Department of Science & Technology on Gangotri Glacier revealed that the Glacier is receding at the rate of 17.15 m/year during 1971 -2004 period. Another study estimated a retreat of 12.10 m during the year 2004-05. Geological Survey of India (GSI) has carried out studies on Pindari Glacier in 2001. As per the available data, Pindari Glacier has receded by 9.41 m/year during 1958-2001 period. This recession may cause marginal rise in discharge of Himalayan rivers due to enhanced melting.

(e) The recession of glaciers cannot be prevented on large scale in view of the nature of Indian Himalayan Glaciers (Debris covered), economic feasibility, scale of operation and likely pollution. As the prime responsibility of reducing emissions that enhance global warming lies with Developed countries, the Government of India is pressing in international negotiations that developed countries should take deeper emission reduction commitments and for a longer period.

Emission limit for asbestos fibre

482. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce emission limit for emission of asbestos fibre for all sorts of asbestos manufacturing units;

(b) if so, details of the proposal; and

(c) the time limit for implementing the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) The emission standards for asbestos fibre from asbestos based products manufacturing industries have already been notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. The list of pollutants with respective emission limits is given in the Statement (See below). These standards are implemented by the respective State Pollution Control Boards/U.T Pollution Control Committees in their area of jurisdiction.

Statement

List of pollutants with emission limits

Industry	Pollutants	Emission Limit
All types of asbestos manufacturing units (including all processes involving the use of asbestos)	Pure asbestos material	0.2 fibre*/cc
	Total Dust	2 mg/Nm ³

*Fibre of length more than 5 micrometer and diameter less than 3 micrometre with an aspect ratio of 3 or more.

FDA and JFMC in Assam

483. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Forest Development Agency and Joint Forest Management Committee operating in Assam and funds sanctioned to them for the revival of degraded forest in the last three years;

(b) the progress made by F.D.As and J.F.FM.Cs and status of fund implementation, year-wise; and